

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 AID-20 EUR-25 NIC-01

RSR-01 /148 W

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P R 222055 Z JUN 73

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4442

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: FOLLOW- UP ON JUNE 20 SHOOTING AT EZEIZA

REF BA 4407 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY. CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING SHOOTING AT EZEIZA ARE STILL NOT - AND PERHAPS NEVER WILL BE - CLEAR. RECRIMINATIONS ARE FLYING THICK AND FAST, NONETHELESS, WITH INTERIOR MINISTER RIGHI UNDER HEAVIEST FIRE FOR FAILURE TO ASSURE ADEQUATE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS. PRO- PERONIST DAILY MAYORIA POINTS OUT THAT WHETHER EXTREMISTS OF LEFT OR RIGHT WERE RESPONSIBLE, BOTH HAD BEEN REJECTED AT POLLS AND HAD NO POPULAR MANDATE. END SUMMARY

2. LATEST REPORTS INDICATE TOLL FROM JUNE 20 SHOOT OUT AT EZEIZA MAY BE AS HIGH AS 35 DEAD AND 400 TO 500 WOUNDED. EXACT CASUALTY LIST WILL PROBABLY NEVER BE KNOWN SINCE MANY OF THOSE LESS SERIOUSLY INJURED MAY HAVE FAILED TO REPORT FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT.

3. EXACT CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE TRAGEDY MAY NEVER BE KNOWN
EITHER. VARIOUS ACCOUNTS AGREE THAT ELEMENTS OF FAR, FAP, MONTONEROS AND ERP 22 SEEMED TO BE INVOLVED ON ONE SIDE - THOUGH
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SOME ACCOUNTS INDICATE THEY FIRED ON ONE ANOTHER; ON THE OTHER SIDE WERE ELEMENTS OF THE ORTHODOX PERONIST YOUTH AND THE LABOR SECTOR.

IT SEEMS CLEAR, TOO, THAT AN EFFORT ON THE PART OF A COLUMN OF FAR ADHERENTS TO APPROACH THE SECURITY LINES AROUND THE SPEAKERS STAND TOUCHED OFF THE SHOOTING. SHOTS THEN CAME FROM ALL SIDES, WITH THE CROWD CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE. IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR WHY THE SHOOTING BEGAN, HOWEVER, NOR WHO STARTED IT. PRESS TODAY CLAIMS POLICE REPORTS INDICATE FIRST SHOTS CAME FROM OSINDE' S FORCES ON SPEAKERS PLATFORM, BUT CONFLICTING ACCOUNTS INDICATE FIRST SHOTS CAME FROM EXTREMIST ELEMENTS IN CROWD. CLEARLY, VICE PRESIDENT SOLANO LIMA' S ASSERTION THAT HE CERTAIN PERONIST YOUTH NOT ARMED IS BELIED BY PRESS PHOTOS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH PERONIST YOUTH ARM BANDS CARRYING WEAPONS. OTHER PRESS PHOTOS SHOW GROUPS ON SPEAKERS PLATFORM AROUND OSINDE SPORTING SUBMACHINE GUNS AND RIFLES.

4. RECRIMINATIONS ARE NOW BEGINNING TO FILL THE AIR. PERONIST YOUTH BLAMES THE CIA AS WELL AS MIXED BAG OF PERONIST LEADERS SUCH AS OSINDE AND NORMA KENNEDY. CGT STATEMENT BLAMES AGITATORS AT SERVICE

OF THE TWO IMPERIALISMS (I. E. SOVIET AND U. S.). LEFT WING IS SAYING RIGHT FIRED FIRST AND RIGHT WING IS SAYING THE REVERSE. INTERIOR MINISTER RIGHI IS UNDER HEAVIEST FIRE. BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS DISCUSSED SITUATION YESTERDAY AND THERE WAS STRONG FEELING AMONG PERONIST MEMBERS AS WELL AS OPPOSITION THAT RIGHI SHOULD BE INTERPELATED. SEVERAL BLAMED HIM OUTRIGHT FOR INADEQUATE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS AND FOR GENERAL CLIMATE OF ANARCHY. SOURCES CLOSE TO RIGHI ON THE OTHER HAND ARE REPORTED BY THE PRESS TO BE ATTRIBUTING SUCH PRESSURE TO THE CONSERVATIVE LABOR SECTOR AND TO BE BLAMING THE

INCIDENTS OF JUNE 20 ON COL. OSINDE, WHO, THEY SAY, " WAS SO CARRIED AWAY BY AN EXCESS OF PERONALISM" THAT HE REFUSED TO ACCEPT SUGGESTIONS OF PROPER AUTHORITIES.

5. PRESIDENT CAMPORA YESTERDAY CALLED THREE HOUR MEETING OF CABINET

AND COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZING RETURN CEREMONIES. SO FAR, LITTLE

IS KNOWN TO OUTCOME, EXCEPT THAT OSINDE, RUCCI AND LORENZO MIGUEL PUT FORWARD ONE VERSION OF INCIDENT, WHILE RIGHI PUT FORWARD SHARPLY CONTRASTING VIEW.

6. PROBABLY PRO- PERONIST DAILY MAYORIA SUMS UP THE AFFAIR MOST ACCURATELY IN ITS EDITORIAL TODAY. WHOEVER WAS RESPONSIBLE, IT SAYS, CONFIDENTIAL

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SUCH ACTS HAVE NO ECHO AMONG THE MASSES AND ARE MORE APPROPRIATE TO CHICAGO GANG WARS OF THE PROHIBITION ERA THAN TO A PERIOD OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. " SOME VERSIONS INDICATE THE TRAGEDY WAS INITIATED BY CIVILIAN LEADERS OF THE EXTREME RIGHT WING," MAYORIA POINTS OUT. " OTHERS ATTRIBUTE IT TO DEMENTED SECTORS OF THE ANARCHIST LEFT OF MARXISM. NO MATTER WHICH WAS RESPONSIBLE, BOTH REPRESENT POSITIONS WHICH WERE ROUNDLY REJECTED BY THE PEOPLE IN THE LAST ELECTION..."

7. ONE REASON VERSIONS OF WHAT HAPPENED TEND TO BE VAGUE AND CONFLICTING IS THAT, DESPITE FACT THERE IS NO CENSORSHIP, TELEVISION COVERAGE WAS BLACKED OUT AS SOON AS TROUBLE STARTED, LEAVING VIEWERS WITH SHOTS OF EMPTY RUNWAY AT EZEIZA WHILE SHOOTING RAGED A FEW KILOMETERS AWAY. TV CAMERAS WERE SET UP ON AND AROUND SPEAKERS PLATFORM BUT WERE NOT PERMITTED TO FILM ANY OF THE EVENTS. NOR WERE THERE ANY RADIO REPORTS FROM SCENE TO DESCRIBE EXACTLY WHAT WAS GOING ON. MOST ARGENTINES LEARNED OF THE REASON FOR DIVERSION OF PERON'S PLANE TO MORON ONLY WELL AFTER IT HAD LANDED.

8. COMMENT. REACTION OF MOST ARGENTINES TO EVENTS OF JUNE 20 IS ONE OF HEALTHY DISGUST AND EVEN MORE EMPHATIC REJECTION OF POLITICAL EXTREMES AND VIOLENCE AS AN INSTRUMENT. LODGE

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